



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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GROUP 1700

In re application of : Confirmation N . 7551  
Yukihiro MATSUMOTO et al. : Docket No. 2000-0669A  
Serial No. 09/587,387 : Group Art Unit 1764  
Filed June 5, 2000 : Examiner Virginia Manoharan

PROCESS FOR INHIBITING A  
POLYMERIZATION IN A VACUUM  
SECTION OF AN EASILY POLYMERIZABLE  
COMPOUND PURIFICATION SYSTEM

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 13, 2003, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

*Page 1, lines 5-10, please rewrite the paragraph as follows:*

AI The present invention relates to a process for inhibiting a polymerization in a vacuum system, which is used for purifying an easily polymerizable compound such as (meth) acrylic acid and (meth) acrylate under a reduced pressure. The invention also relates to the easily polymerizable compound purification system.

*Page 2, line 6, to page 3, line 7, please rewrite the paragraphs as follows:*

Ag An easily polymerizable compound is usually distilled in the distillation column 1 under a reduced pressure. The pressure inside the distillation column 1 is controlled by the closing and opening of an air regulating valve 8, while the air regulating valve 8 is controlled on the basis of measurements obtained by a pressure gauge 7. Most of the resulting distilled compound is condensed through a condenser.